



Meeting Summary

TxDOT El Paso District
Loop 375 Border Highway West Extension Project
El Paso County, CSJ 2552-04-027
Contract No. 24-648P5001
HNTB Project No. 42085



Meeting Date: April 22-23, 2013

Location: TxDOT El Paso District Office – Executive Conference Room

Subject: Border Highway West Extension Project Risk Assessment Workshop

Attendees: TxDOT El Paso District, TxDOT SPD, TxDOT SPO, Jacobs, HNTB, Halff, MCI

Action Items

Issue	Details	Action Required
Context Sensitive Solutions & Aesthetics Guidance	Document City's support for aesthetics developed during CSS process.	Determine what is necessary to show support (agreement, city council resolution, etc.?)
	Aesthetic constructability	Secondary review of aesthetics constructability
U.S. Customs and Border Protection	Patrol Tower Relocation	Meeting with feds to determine process and schedule (soup to nuts) for tower relocation
		Process under TxDOT utility or ROW rules?
Environmental	Phases 1 and 2 Environmental Site Assessments	Identify method for conducting ESAs
	Haz-Mat	TxDOT needs most recent soil testing available for ASARCO and CEMEX properties
	Migratory bird nesting	Survey needed
	ROW for ASARCO	ASARCO categorical exclusion needed
ROW	Title searches & early appraisal	Don Toner starting week of April 22
Railroad Coordination	How do utilities interact with RR?	Darrin/Matt to contact UPRR (Doug/Ivan) to set up coordination discussion

Agenda

Introductions – 1- 1:30pm (Monday)
 Purpose of the Meeting – 1-1:30pm (Monday)
 Process for Developing a Risk Register – 1:30-2pm (Monday)
 Overview of the Project – 2-3pm (Monday)
 Identification of Risks (Brainstorm) – 3-5pm (Monday)
 Environmental
 Haz-mat
 Utilities (inc. Border Patrol)
 Drainage

Structures
Railroad
ROW
Constructability
Schedule
Cost

Review of Identified Risks – 8-8:30am (Tuesday)
Classification of Identified Risks (PcE Homework) – 8:30-9am (Tuesday)
Prioritize Identified Risks – 9-10am (Tuesday)
Likelihood of Occurrence – 10-10:30am (Tuesday)
Impact to the Project – 10:30-11:30am (Tuesday)
Risk Mitigation (Discuss) – 11:30am-Noon (Tuesday)
Assignment of Risk (Discuss) – 11:30am-Noon (Tuesday)
Discussion of Final Product – 11:30am-Noon (Tuesday)

April 22 Summary

Workshop Introduction

Identify risk, prioritize, who owns, how mitigate
Won't be talking about financial risks

Risk Register

Living document that will have things added and removed
Currently Risk Register lists large risk groups
Identify missing risks through objective, scientific lens
Determine how to assess each risk's importance
Risk register will be analyzed and updated as needed

Overview of Border Highway West Extension (BHW) Environmental Study

Examples of known and unknown risks: 7 railroad crossings – 35 trains per day and increasing; potential for tunnels from Mexico to US; Customs and Border Protection (CBP) tower; 75 drainage ponds – wide and shallow due to high groundwater table; International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) flood control permits
Discussion item: developer to coordinate with railroads to relocate track.

Risks to Evaluate/ Risk Leads (Table)

BHW structure: inherent risks
Constructability of aesthetics – including down lighting and up lighting for CBP
Q: Purpose of road is for local traffic?
A: Commuter, I-10 incident relief, freight patterns
Q: Problems with alternatives not selected?
A: Overhanging river, historic bridges, drainage, etc.; historic neighborhood, railyard relocation, etc. Additional information is available in environmental document.
Q: Who is responsible for public involvement?
A: PI will be on developer's side (per Holzmann)

Procurement Restrictions for Developer

CBP access must always be maintained even during construction
Overhanging Chihuahueta Park
American Canal – debris limits
Impacts to Cesar Chavez Managed Lanes in Camino Real Regional Mobility Authority (CRRMA) toll policy
Railroad ROW expanded by BHW ROW – Exhibit As will show coordination that has taken place so far

Utilities and CBP

Utilities

High power transmission lines, fiber, substations, etc. – electric lines near Executive Center to be relocated in 2014
Coordination about working behind the Border Fence

CBP

Border Patrol towers – adjust line of sight on some

Discussion item: build new towers, treat like utility, understand schedule to build. There are 7 towers affected, relocation and adjustment to be paid for by _____. Confirm if CBP changing equipment out soon. Jim O’Leary (CBP decision maker) needed at next meeting. What is lead time? Is a CBP security contractor needed for installation? Assume TxDOT will handle relocation (per Holzmann). Currently tower is on city property. Confirm tower is moving to city property.

Risk Register

Environmental (mitigation chapter of EIS)

Currently no temporary or permanent columns in waters of U.S., therefore, no U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) permit needed. Changes to column placement may require permit.

Proximity to river: water quality from ASARCO and CEMEX runoff (TCEQ)

Haz Mat in downtown area: possible underground storage tanks; contamination plume near Sun Metro (pond); possible asbestos/lead paint issues associated with the 35 commercial structures to be taken

Discussion item: moving ponds will be an environmental risk on contractor

Additional testing along I-10 ROW near ASARCO: TxDOT needs recent soil sample testing.

Permits and licenses at levee outfalls: IBWC reconfiguring so coordination is needed. Developer will acquire permits and licenses.

Contractor cannot change alignment near cemetery. No temporary easements in that location.

Migratory bird treaty and surveys

Vibrations – no pile driving on levees

Utilities

Transmission lines, relocations and impact on schedule

Utilities in railroad ROW, relocating track and utilities with track

Drainage

Ponds – existing infrastructure

Avoid below ground ponds because of maintenance issues

Outfalls require permits from IBWC as applicable

Structures

Call out critical points with railroad and leave room for developer’s innovation

Railroads

Construction over their facilities

Construction related to their relocation

Tolling

DB contractor

Tolling contractor

Tolling plan

ROW

Advanced acquisition by District (CEMEX and McKinney started)
ASARCO early acquisition – CE needed
Toner: title searches, early appraisal this week
Preliminary map end June 2013
Final map end September 2013

Constructability

Sensitive areas (CBP area, railroad, time of day)
City project – coordination in downtown area with street closures
Timing of utility relocations

Schedule

Coordination with 3rd parties
Physical obstructions
Procedural obstructions
Early acquisitions

Cost

No funding identified
Estimate – Monte Carlo simulation
Unknown – ROW and utility
Big cost items – CBP towers and haz-mat

April 23 Summary

Housekeeping

TxDOT: provide developer with a workable project and workable solutions to risk
Procurement working group
Focus groups by issue – action items for groups
Jacobs will look at risk register, flush out notes and develop action items
Calvo will take lead for District on procurement items

April 22 Meeting Summary

Biggest risks identified:

- ROW
- CBP
- Railroad: track relocation, construction issues

Populating Risk Register (Goals for RFP)

Railroad Coordination

Steps:

1. TxDOT does Exhibit As (“light”) for preliminary design with operations (provide the envelop)
2. Railroad concurrence
3. Developer will work with railroad to get agreement. TxDOT will provide coordination if/when needed.

CBP

2 issues: tower relocation and relocation protocol

ROW

Sufficient ROW: developer access/construction easement/utilities in corridor (is footprint large enough?)

Relocations: majority of relocations are near Coles Interchange
Appraisal/ purchase cost
Regulations
Coordination/ possible property owner delays – 40 owners/ 70 parcels; 35 structures: 33 commercial, 2 residential
Schedule impact
Need boundary survey

Utilities

Upfront work will lower risk
Are utilities in ROW through permit, easement, etc.?
Greatest concentration of utilities in these areas: Coles St, Chihuahuita, Spur 1966, SH 273
Identify utility corridor? Locate critical points; cannot hold-up ROW map; Halff has working list of utilities that cross; HNTB check environmental

Drainage

Ponds: environmentally cleared but leave acquisition to developer to allow for upstream innovations or other innovations. Environmental clearance is specific to current pond locations.
Coordination with IBWC – agency will need model showing no impact to Rio Grande.

IBWC

TBD, uncertainty about 2 needed permits must be clarified. TxDOT will likely be permit “pass-through” for developer.

Constructability

Define liability between developer and TxDOT regarding conditions with slag and levees
Geotech needed
Pinch points: limited space for staging; windows to work for railroad operation
Drainage to river (TCEQ quality at ASARCO; IBWC volumes per Treaty), outfall issues
Columns need to be in certain places to avoid permits per EIS
Haz-Mat at/near ASARCO (Phase 1 needed, Phase 2 targeted)
Due diligence at smelter cemetery
Utilities

Focus Groups

ROW
Railroad
Border Patrol
Utility
Misc. (dungeon, dynamite, etc)
Drainage
Structures
Environmental
Aesthetics
Development/tech
Address:

- Issues
- Schedule impacts
- Cost impacts
- Reporting to working group